



317 Vaccine Policy Changes Frequently Asked Questions

VFC-Eligible Children

1. Who is eligible to receive VFC vaccine?

Children through 18 years of age who meet at least one of the following criteria are eligible to receive VFC vaccine:

- Uninsured
- on AHCCCS
- Native American/Alaskan Native

2. Can I use Arizona VFC Program vaccine to immunize a KidsCare child?

Yes. Continue vaccinating KidsCare children.

Privately Insured Children

3. What is the definition of a privately insured child?

Anyone with insurance that covers the cost of vaccine, even if the insurance includes a deductible or co-pay, or if a claim for the cost of the vaccine and its administration would be denied for payment by the insurance carrier because the plan's deductible had not been met.

4. Why is it important to vaccinate privately insured children in their medical home?

There are only a limited number of places to serve privately insured children, especially children under 6 years of age. If privately insured children get bounced around between private providers and the county health department they may fall through the cracks and never get vaccinated.

5. I do not have a private stock of all vaccines, where can I send my privately insured children?

Privately insured children should be vaccinated in their medical home because other resources may not be available. Please carry all vaccines.

Places where privately insured children can get vaccinated include:

- Community vaccinators have main clinics and offsite clinics in some retail outlets. Some of these have contracts to bill insurance companies. Vaccines offered and ages served vary.
 - Some examples of community vaccinators are East Valley Vaccination and Examination Center, Healthwaves, Maxim, Mollen Clinics, and Passport Health.
- Federally Qualified Health Centers or Rural Health Centers. Some are able to take walk-in and non-established patients, but many will require the patients to enroll in the FQHC or RHC as their medical home.
- Pharmacies, which do not serve children under 6 years of age (Walgreens, under 7 years of age).
- Another private provider who carries needed vaccines.

6. Can I send a privately insured child to a County Health Department to be vaccinated?

Prior to October 2012, county health departments were a good resource for privately insured children. However, starting in October 2012, county health departments and other public providers will not be able to use public vaccine on privately insured children. County health departments can only be a resource if they have a private vaccine stock and a system in place to bill private insurance.

Some county health departments are trying to establish private stocks of vaccine and private insurance reimbursement systems in order to continue serving privately insured children. This is a challenging effort and it may take some time before your county health department may be successful. Check with your local health department to see if they can still serve as a resource for your patients.

UNDERinsured children

7. What is the definition of UNDERinsured?

A person who has health insurance, but the coverage does not include vaccines or a person whose insurance covers only selected vaccines. Children with deductibles and co-pays are considered insured and NOT underinsured. Children who are underinsured for selected vaccines are VFC-eligible for non-covered vaccines only.

8. Can I use Arizona VFC Program vaccine to immunize an UNDERinsured child?

If you are a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), Rural Health Center (RHC) or a deputized VFC provider, yes, you can use VFC Vaccine to immunize an UNDER insured child.

If you are a NOT Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), Rural Health Center (RHC) or a deputized VFC provider, you may use a limited supply of Arizona VFC Program vaccine specifically for UNDERinsured children. Please continue to vaccinate UNDERinsured children until you are told to stop. We expect this vaccine to last until Spring 2013.

9. Once the Arizona VFC Program tells me to stop vaccinating my underinsured patients, what are my options?

You may use your PRIVATE vaccine stock to vaccine them and charge them out-of-pocket.

If you don't want to charge your patients out-of-pocket, UNDERinsured children can be sent to the following places:

- All county health departments will be able to provide VFC vaccine to UNDERinsured children
- A limited number of public and private VFC providers will be deputized to assist the CHDs. These providers will accept non-established patients.
- Federally Qualified Health Centers or Rural Health Centers

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- Pharmacies may vaccinate children 6 years of age and older with a doctor's prescription, except for influenza vaccine, which does not require a prescription. Parents of underinsured children may be charged out-of-pocket.

Hepatitis B Birth Dose in Hospitals

10. Can birthing hospitals continue vaccinating all babies with the Arizona VFC Program supplied Hepatitis B birth dose and HBIG?

Starting October 2012, hospitals will no longer be supplied with the universal Hepatitis B birth dose and HBIG.

Please use VFC vaccine for the VFC-eligible babies, there will always be a sufficient VFC vaccine supply.

Hospitals must have a private stock of Perinatal Hepatitis B vaccine and HBIG for privately insured babies.

The Arizona VFC Program has a limited amount of vaccine available for the UNDERinsured children. Please continue vaccinating UNDERinsured babies with Arizona VFC Program vaccine until you are told to stop. We expect this vaccine to last until Spring 2013.

If you are unable to provide vaccine to UNDERinsured babies, please refer them to a county health department, Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), Rural Health Center (RHC) or a deputized provider.

If you have any questions, please contact the Arizona VFC Program at 602-364-3642.